Promotion of tourism in Goa

2000. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to increase the flow of tourist to India from China;

(b) whether Government has any plan to identify hotels with moderate room tariffs for such tourist and recovered them;

(c) whether it is fact that at present there is no flow of Chinese tourists to the internationally known tourist destination, Goa; and

(d) if so, whether Government proposes to take concrete steps to promote tourism in Goa?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes, Sir. To increase the flow of foreign tourists to India from China, the Government has approved the opening of India Tourism Office in Beijing.

(b) Providing of accommodation to tourists is primarily a private sector activity. However, to facilitate augmentation of budget category accommodation for tourists, the Government has asked all the State/UT Governments and other land owning agencies including Indian Railways to allocate land for building hotels, especially in the budget category. They have also been advised to follow investor-friendly land policies, adopt single window approach for promoting hotel projects, allot sites on revenue sharing basis, grant extra FAR/FSI for hotels, permit extra commercial usage in the hotels etc. so that budget hotels are promoted. Further, in order to increase the number of rooms in the budget category, Ministry of Tourism has floated schemes for the approval of Guest Houses and Incredible India Bed & Breakfast Establishments.

(c) The number of Chinese tourist arrivals to Goa at present is negligible.

(d) Development and promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State/UT Governments. However, the Government plays the role of a facilitator and catalyst to promote tourism in different parts of the country, including Goa. The activities undertaken by the Government include providing financial assistance to State/UT Governments for tourism-related projects, co-ordination with various Central Ministries, undertaking centralized media campaigns, participation in fairs and exhibitions, printing and distributing brochures, etc.

Visit of pilgrims to Hemkund Sahib in Uttarakhand

2001. SHRI TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) how many pilgrims (Tourists) go to Hemkund Saheb in Uttarakhand during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) how many foreigners have gone to this place during the last three years;

(c) what facilities have been provided by her Ministry on this destination alongwith scheme with expenditure and the date of its completion;

(d) what are the future plans of Government on this destination; and

(e) whether there is any proposal to have rope way for facility of old pilgrims?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) The number of pilgrims who visited Hemkund Saheb during the years 2005, 2006 and 2007 were 548414, 576658 and 557129 respectively.

(b) The number of foreigners who went to Hemkund Saheb in 2005, 2006 and 2007 were 25, 32 and 63 respectively.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 653.54 lakh to the Government of Uttarakhand for integrated development of the tourist circuit Hemkund Saheb-Ghangharia - Valley of Flowers. The project, which is expected to be completed by October 30, 2009, *inter-alia* includes the following components:—

(i) Development of basic facilities at various plans in Ghangharia, Hemkund Saheb route.

(ii) Strengthening of trek route from Ghangharia to Hemkund Saheb.

(iii) Installation of Signages at Ghangharia, Hemkund Saheb.

(iv) Development of alternate route for benefit of pedestrians.

(v) Construction of Toilet blocks along the Trek route.

(vi) Provision of water points along the trek route.

(vii) Provision of Garbage Collection Bins along Trek route.

(viii) Construction of Pits for Mule dung along Trek route.

(e) No, Sir.

Construction of dam at Maniyarsui in Uttarakhand

†2002. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has any plan to construct a dam in Maniyarsui (Pauri Garhwal) in the State of Uttarakhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Satpuli-Devprayag motor way is in danger due to construction of Badio and Vyaschati dam; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government to save this motor way?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) As per the information received from the Government of Uttarakhand, there is no proposal to construct a dam at Maniyarsui (Pauri Garhwal).

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) As per information received from the Government of Uttarakhand there is no plan to construct a dam at Badio and Vyaschati. However, the State Governemnt has a plan

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.